

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 29-40 are presently active in this case, Claims 28 and 41 canceled and Claims 29 and 37 amended by way of the present amendment.

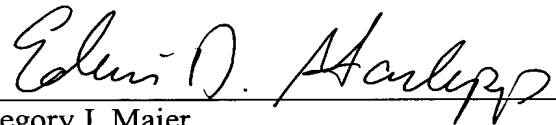
In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 28 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as Claims 1 and 8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,644,189; and Claims 29-40 were objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response to the double patenting rejection, Applicants have canceled rejected Claims 28 and 41, and amended Claims 29 and 37 to include the limitations of canceled Claim 28. Thus, all claims are placed in condition for allowance.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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